

401.026 to read as follows:

*Sec. 401.026. APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL. For purposes of this subtitle, the travel of a firefighter or emergency medical personnel en route to an emergency call is considered to be in the course and scope of the firefighter's or emergency medical personnel's employment.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 28, 2015: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting;  
passed by the Senate on May 22, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 9, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

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## TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR STATE AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS AND EMPLOYEES

### CHAPTER 366

H.B. No. 3337

#### AN ACT

**relating to training and education for state agency administrators and employees.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 656.043, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 656.043. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "state agency" means a department, agency, or institution of *the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of [this] state government*, including an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

SECTION 2. Section 656.047, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 656.047. PAYMENT OF PROGRAM EXPENSES. (a) *Except as provided by this section or other law, a [A] state agency may spend public funds as appropriate to pay the salary, tuition and other fees, travel and living expenses, training stipend, expense of training materials, and other necessary expenses of an instructor, student, or other participant in a training or education program.*

*(b) For an administrator or employee of a state agency who seeks reimbursement for a training or education program offered by an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, the agency may only pay the tuition expenses for a program course successfully completed by the administrator or employee at an accredited institution of higher education.*

SECTION 3. Section 656.048, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b) to read as follows:

*(b) A state agency shall adopt rules requiring that before an administrator or employee of the agency may be reimbursed under Section 656.047(b), the executive head of the agency must authorize the tuition reimbursement payment.*

SECTION 4. Section 656.101, Government Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1) "State agency" has the meaning assigned by Section 656.043.

(1-a) "State ~~and "state~~ employee" has the meaning ~~[have the meanings]~~ assigned by Section 572.002 ~~[except that the terms do not include a river authority or an employee of a river authority].~~

SECTION 5. Section 656.102, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 656.102. AGENCY POLICY. (a) Before a state agency spends any money on training for a state employee, the state agency must adopt a policy governing the training of employees, in addition to the rules required by Section 656.048, that requires training to relate to an employee's duties following the training.

(b) *The policy must:*

(1) *provide clear and objective guidelines to govern tuition reimbursement for an administrator or employee of a state agency who is enrolled in training for which the administrator or employee seeks reimbursement from this state; and*

(2) *address tuition reimbursement for nontraditional training, including online courses or courses not credited towards a degree.*

(c) *The state agency shall post the policy adopted under this section on the employment section of the agency's Internet website.*

SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to training and education expenses paid by a state agency on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 5, 2015: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 20, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 9, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

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**APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CERTAIN  
FINANCIAL REGULATORY AGENCIES BY THE FINANCE  
COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

**CHAPTER 367**

H.B. No. 3536

**AN ACT**

**relating to the appointment of the commissioners of certain financial regulatory agencies by the Finance Commission of Texas.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 12.101(a), Finance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The banking commissioner is the chief executive officer of the Texas Department of Banking. The finance commission~~[- by at least five affirmative votes,]~~ shall appoint the banking commissioner. The banking commissioner serves at the will of the finance commission and is subject to the finance commission's orders and directions.

SECTION 2. Section 13.002(a), Finance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The savings and mortgage lending commissioner is the chief executive officer of the Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending. The finance commission~~[- by at least five affirmative votes,]~~ shall appoint the savings and mortgage lending commissioner. The savings and mortgage lending commissioner serves at the will of the finance commission and is subject to the finance commission's orders and direction.

SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act to Section 12.101(a), Finance Code, applies only to the appointment of the banking commissioner on or after the effective date of this Act. A banking commissioner appointed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(b) The change in law made by this Act to Section 13.002(a), Finance Code, applies only to the appointment of the savings and mortgage lending commissioner on or after the effective date of this Act. A savings and mortgage lending commissioner appointed